

**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CORNWALL**

Inspiring unity – Sharing our gifts

FUTURE PATHS

A REPORT TO CTC EXECUTIVE

by the CTC Unity Group

April 2019



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**

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UNITY

IN ORDER TO BE UNITED

IT IS NECESSARY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER,

IN ORDER TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

IT IS NECESSARY TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER,

IN ORDER TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

IT IS NECESSARY TO MEET ONE ANOTHER.

Cardinal Mercier

1. Recommendations

1.1. Celebration and Purpose

1.1.1. *CTBI Statement of Purpose* We endorse CTBI's recently adopted Statement of Purpose and suggest sharing it as our own Statement of Purpose with our member churches and Churches Together groups (2.2.1)

1.1.2. *Declaration of Intent* We celebrate the 2013 Declaration of Intent, signed by our denominational leaders; its three key declarations should shape our perception of our future, seeking consciously to deliver on the commitments made (2.2.5)

1.1.3. *Inspiring Unity – Sharing our Gifts* As a summary of those commitments, CTC might adopt this strapline, which encompasses both what we have achieved and our aims for the future (2.2.6)

1.1.4. In 2020 CTC will be *25 years old*. Use this opportunity to celebrate past achievements and launch new initiatives, planning events with local CT groups around Cornwall and a major central event (2.2.7)

1.2. Prayer

1.2.1. Issue a *call to prayer* to all CT groups and DEOs to consider these proposals prayerfully and encourage discussion across the churches. Prayer is at the centre of all that we do.

1.2.2. Act as an ongoing *prayer focus* for the growth of the church in Cornwall, with regular meetings and online resources available to those who cannot meet.

1.3. Inspiring and Sharing

1.3.1. **Communications:**

1.3.1.1. *Develop a forum* for those engaged in church communications work to share expertise and, where appropriate, infrastructure, and develop training opportunities (3.2.1)

1.3.1.2. *Undertake a mapping exercise* in conjunction with BBC Radio Cornwall and possibly university students to document services provided by CT groups across the county, to make them discoverable by agencies and clients who can benefit from them (3.2.2)

1.3.1.3. *Develop an online 'CTC infoHub'* to make this information and other material easily accessible (3.2.3)

1.3.1.4. *Introduce a county-wide weekly Mailchimp newsletter* for Christian news and events, to which anyone may subscribe (3.2.4)

1.3.2. **Social Action:**

1.3.2.1. *Reducing the need for voluntary services:* Focus discussion on the need to address the fundamental reasons why these services are needed and what can be done to render them less necessary. (4.2.1)

1.3.2.2. *Alleviating loneliness:* Develop a proposal following on from the 2017 *Coffee with Donna* project, in conjunction with Transformation Cornwall and local CT groups and utilising information from the mapping exercise proposed at 1.3.1.2, and seek any necessary funding (4.2.2)

1.3.2.3. *Fairtrade:* identify and invite all Christian Fairtrade enterprises in Cornwall to share information and offer practical support to each other so that awareness of trade justice is promoted and delivered more effectively (4.2.3)

1.3.3. **Environmental Concern:**

1.3.3.1. *Climate emergency:* take an active part, with local councils, in encouraging local take-up of Cornwall Council's action plan when published (5.2.1)

1.3.3.2. *Creation Time:* encourage adoption of this framework to raise awareness of environmental concerns and local initiatives underway (5.2.2)

1.3.3.3. *Church Buildings:* encourage and promote adoption of environmentally-friendly policies, including green energy projects (5.2.3)

1.3.3.4. *Church Land:* publicise opportunities for practical conservation and environmental education projects, to inspire communities with what can be done and connect those with expertise and experience with those seeking advice (5.2.4)

1.3.3.5. *Provide resource packs* for church groups and Christians involved in secular groups, explaining why environmental action is a Christian priority, focussing on creativity and hope, based on the cumulative effect of small steps and celebrating resultant change (5.2.5)

1.3.4. **Mission:**

1.3.4.1. *Preach on the Beach:* encourage co-ordination and development of outdoor worship initiatives, creating opportunities for young people to assist in the organising of mini festivals with food stalls and prayer tents, resourcing local mission and providing safe spaces for discussion and spiritual exploration for all ages. (6.2.1)

1.3.4.2 *Cornish Celtic Way*: develop an association with the Cornish Celtic Way, encouraging support by local CT groups through whose area the route passes and the use of church buildings for overnight accommodation, and raising awareness of other pilgrimage opportunities including that of Landevennec. (6.2.2)

1.3.4.3 *High Street mission*: encourage wider discussion of the value and difficulties of ministry in shop-front sites, co-ordinating existing efforts and documenting examples of good practice, and supporting new initiatives. (6.2.3)

1.3.4.4 *Christian publishing*: engage immediately with SACREdtrust to endeavour to ensure that expertise in the St Austell centre is not lost but harnessed in new ventures (6.2.4)

1.3.4.5 *Raising international awareness*: consider how initiatives by local CT groups to raise congregational awareness of issues relating to the treatment of refugees, persecution of Christians, modern slavery and other international concerns can be extended county-wide (6.2.5)

1.4. Organisation

To ensure CTC can continue on a sustainable basis following the retirement of David Smith, we **recommend** some structural changes as follows (7.1):

1.4.1 Focus on four topic areas: Communication, Social Action, Environmental Concern, and Mission.

1.4.2 Create project groups for each topic, involving members from local CT groups, to keep CTC abreast of developments and aspirations across the county. Each group should be represented on CTC Executive.

1.4.3 Appoint a Missioner (or Co-ordinator) to manage those tasks formally required of CTC by CTE (including LEP reviews), service CTC meetings, and oversee the project groups.

1.4.4 Consider supporting this post with a minute secretary.

1.4.5. Group other CTC activities as one of three types:

- *Managed*: directly run by CTC and responsible to CTC Executive [e.g. RCS Tent Ministry, Dementia Group, Education Group, WPCU services, Landevennec Pilgrimages, CTC website, CTC Newsletter, CTC insurance scheme]
- *Supported*: separately managed but with CTC contribution (financial or in-kind) and representation [e.g. Cornwall Faith Forum, Epiphany House, Thy Kingdom Come, Educational Chaplaincy, Climate Vision].
- *Associated*: distinct organisations which CTC works with but is not represented on [e.g. Christian Aid, Cornish Celtic Way]

1.4.6. Ensure each activity is represented on the appropriate Project Group and reports through it to CTC Executive. New initiatives, problems, requests for support, resource sharing etc should be discussed in the group which would make recommendations to CTC Exec, based on their experience of needs and resources across the county.

1.4.7. In responding to Project Group requests, CTC Executive should prioritise 'managed' activities, while ensuring appropriate contributions and representation for 'supported' activities.

1.4.8. Project Groups should arrange their own secretarial support, internal structure, frequency and location of meetings etc. The Missioner should be available for advice but not involved in the day-to-day running.

1.5 Implementation

CTC Executive is invited to explore these proposals further through the appointment of a 'task and finish' group of perhaps 6 members, to be formed following the AGM on 10 April 2019, considering budgetary implications and reporting to the Executive meeting on 10 July 2019 with final recommendations for approval at that meeting and subsequent implementation (7.2)

2. The achievement and future of Churches Together in Cornwall

2.1. History

2.1.1 **Churches Together in Cornwall** (CTC) was constituted in 1995 as an *Intermediate Body* (IB) within **Churches Together in England** (CTE), following the recommendations of the 1987 Swanwick conference which led to the establishment of CTE in 1990 and had also recognised the importance of 'intermediate' ecumenical instruments which were already in existence in some parts of England, bridging the gap between local and national and acting as Sponsoring Bodies for Local Ecumenical Partnerships. It was recommended that these should be established throughout England with boundaries roughly the same as the English counties.

2.1.2 CTE focussed initially on three things:

- o The search for closer unity between the Christian Churches, including the theological and doctrinal issues involved;
- o Joint witness to the Christian gospel, as several of the Churches began ten years focus on evangelisation;
- o Local work for Christian unity.

2.1.3 These objectives remain fundamental to CTE and therefore to its IBs, including CTC. Much has been achieved, nationally and at county and local level. The formal structures which have enabled this have however remained largely opaque to the majority of congregations across all denominations, particularly in the newer Pentecostal/Evangelical churches, and where local ecumenical actions have flourished there may be little understanding of the instruments under which the participating churches are operating in order to allow such joint action; indeed, many are driven by local Christians responding to a need and getting on with the job without seeking permission or endorsement from their own churches.

2.1.4 This has sometimes led to a desire to work as '**Christians Together**' with an emphasis on individual faith, initiative and responsibility rather than corporate direction from 'Churches Together'. We suggest further consideration on the option of changing CTC's name to Christians Together in Cornwall. In many ways that may seem a natural evolution and a 'growing up' of the ecumenical movement, but it may leave IBs like CTC in an ambiguous position. Equally, in areas where ecumenism has not flourished, there may be a feeling that the CTE structure has failed, that ecumenism has been tried and found wanting, initiatives such as the 1990's Decade of Evangelism have failed to turn the tide of growing secularisation, and that revival, if it is to happen, may come from entirely different directions.

2.2 Looking to the future

2.2.1 CTE's parent body, **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** (CTBI) has recently updated its Statement of Purpose:

CTBI believes that ecumenism is an urgent evangelical imperative. It is time we cease projecting the image of a dismembered Body of Christ, which is a counter-witness to the Good News we proclaim. The ecumenism we seek is dynamic and responsive; not a monolith resulting from one powerful church swallowing the others, but a mega-community composed of churches (local, national and international) that complement one another, each with its own historical identity, its unique tradition, its own doctrinal emphasis, and its particular worship form; in short, a Pentecostal communion of communities that understand and speak one another's language.

We wholeheartedly endorse this view of ecumenism and **recommend** that CTC adopt it and share it as our own Statement of Purpose with our member churches and Churches Together groups across the county (1.1.1)

2.2.2 The **administration** of IBs across the country is in the hands of County Ecumenical Officers (CEOs) (known by various titles; in Cornwall, Missioner), originally conceived as paid positions. In recent years, many of these have reached retirement and been replaced on a voluntary basis or not at all. Many counties are now without a CEO. In Cornwall, David Smith has held the post for ten years, but officially 'retired' in April 2017; a revised job description advertised in summer 2017 failed to attract any applicants; the same was true after the AGM in April 2018. In October 2018 David invited a small group of people to form a **Unity Group** to look at the future for CTC, what its priorities should be and whether some of these can be delivered through a team of volunteers maybe instead of a CEO. This report represents the initial findings of this group, whose members are:

- o Donna Birrell (BBC Radio Cornwall)
- o Roger Mills (Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together)
- o Kathy Pope (SACREdPlace, St Austell)
- o David Smith (CTC)

2.2.3 The group was chosen to represent a variety of experience with ecumenical ventures across the county. Its **terms of reference** were:

- o To map future paths for CTC to pursue to maximise its relevance to all Christians and Christian organisations across Cornwall, increasing inclusivity, supporting all age groups and promoting church unity
- o To strengthen links with local CT groups and map existing activities and needs
- o To identify and consider possible support for existing agencies providing pastoral care alongside secular activities eg SACREdTrust, Oasis Centre
- o To investigate possible synergies with denominational programmes including Transforming Mission
- o To identify any organisational revisions necessary to achieve future objectives
- o To report to CTC Executive with proposed implementation strategy

2.2.4 The group is conscious of a growing interest in spiritual (but not necessarily Christian) awareness across the county, and of a growing confidence within the Christian community and willingness to share the Gospel. Despite many challenges there is a widespread sense that the Spirit is moving in Cornwall, and we have focussed our considerations on the aim of building capacity within Churches Together in Cornwall to resource and encourage this growth across the whole of our society, grouping our reflections in four areas:

- o Communications (3)
- o Social action (4)
- o Environmental concern (5)
- o Mission (6)

2.2.5 We note the **2013 Declaration of Intent**, signed by our denominational leaders; we **recommend** that its three key declarations should shape our perception of our future, seeking consciously to deliver on these commitments: (1.1.2)

"We commit ourselves and our churches:

- a) *to seek out every possible opportunity for joint initiatives at Local and County Level in mission to all the people of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.*
- b) *to work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate.*
- c) *to continue the work of developing strategies whereby we optimise the use of our church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county."*

2.2.6 We summarise these commitments as *Inspiring Unity – Sharing our Gifts* and **recommend** CTC adopt this phrase as a strapline, which encompasses both what we have achieved and our aims for the future. (1.1.3)

2.2.7 We note that in 2020 CTC will reach its **silver jubilee**, and **recommend** taking the opportunity to organise a series of celebratory events around the county together with a major central event, perhaps in conjunction with Thy Kingdom Come 2020, to raise awareness of CTC, strengthen links with local CT groups and launch any future projects as appropriate, and demonstrate the outworking of the commitments made in the Declaration of Intent. (1.1.4)

2.3 Prayer

There are many opportunities and challenges ahead for CTC and it is essential that our discussions and actions are grounded in and underpinned by prayer. We **recommend** issuing a call to prayer to all CT groups and DEOs to consider proposals prayerfully and encourage discussion across the churches (1.2.1). We also **recommend** that CTC should aim to provide an ongoing prayer focus for the growth of the church in Cornwall, with regular prayer meetings and online resources available to those who cannot meet (1.2.2.)

3 Focus on Communications

3.1. Past achievements and current projects

3.1.1. *Connecting networks – two-way communication*

CTC acts as a central distribution point for information for individuals and groups wishing to circulate details of news and events to other church groups around the county. It maintains a directory of contacts for all CT groups and circulates announcements by email; the system relies on those local contacts circulating the information onwards to local churches, and its effectiveness varies across the county. Similarly those representatives may request CTC to circulate their own local events; again take-up varies.

3.1.2. **CTC Communications**

The **CTC Newsletter** has grown from an A4 quarterly sheet offered to interested churches to bi-monthly newsletter currently mailed to some 150 persons.

The **CTC website** <https://www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk/> hits over each of the last three years have reached 3 million which identifies its potential for the future.

The **CTC Contact List** includes details of all local CT groups and officers and is available on the website.

The **CTC Insurance Scheme** is included in the CTC affiliation fee and offers public liability insurance for public events arranged by affiliated groups at a very reasonable cost.

3.1.3. **A valued brand for those outside the church**

For those unfamiliar with the church network in the county, the CTC website is often the **first port of call**. Residents and visitors alike use the site to locate church services and activities. It is important that those encountering the local church for the first time through their visit are encouraged and given positive and helpful information about the Christian community in Cornwall.

3.2. **Future possibilities**

3.2.1. **A forum for sharing expertise**

All churches are engaged in communications work, with often significant investment in IT services. We **recommend** that CTC provides links between these local services, offering a forum for the development and sharing of expertise, encouraging use of a shared infrastructure with shared costs where appropriate, publicising training opportunities, and creating a community of existing volunteers who very often work in solitary isolation in their own churches, often unaware of others nearby facing the same challenges. There is clearly an opportunity to share burdens for the benefit of all. (1.3.1.1)

3.2.1. **Mapping services**

A huge amount of voluntary work is carried out by church groups across Cornwall for the benefit of the community. A survey carried out by **Transformation Cornwall** three years ago suggested this amounted to an economic benefit equivalent to some £26m per annum. As Council services have reduced, communities have more and more relied on Christian groups to step in and give support. There is currently no easy way to identify all the services provided in an area or to connect them with both potential clients and support agencies who may wish to refer people to them. A **mapping exercise** to discover such services could be very beneficial, and some local councils are already engaged in that, eg. Penryn. We **recommend** that CTC facilitate this by surveying all CT groups, perhaps using university volunteers and working with Radio Cornwall, and providing appropriate software to make the results easily searchable by anyone. (1.3.1.2)

3.2.3. **A CTC infoHub**

We **recommend** that CTC should develop a dedicated online service named the “CTC infoHub”, connecting communities with the activities led by the churches county-wide, including those identified by the mapping exercise suggested above. It would aim to supplement and publicise but not duplicate existing provision – for example, the Church of England’s *A church near you* site – and make all our work much more easily discoverable. The facility might include:

- o Dedicated website
- o Email newsletters
- o Social media
- o Video
- o Press releases
- o Broadcasting/podcasts

This might be developed in conjunction with partners outside the

church, for example **Cornwall 365**, whose arts events directory website <https://cornwall365.com> demonstrates much of the capability we might need. (1.3.1.3)

3.2.4 **Weekly News**

As a first stage in the infoHub project, we **recommend** the development of a weekly Christian news and events Mailchimp email bulletin, combining those produced by Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together and Churches Together in the Penzance Area, and extending the coverage to the whole of Cornwall, with six local editions covering the areas of the former district councils. This project is ready to launch in the Falmouth and Penzance areas and can extend gradually as local editors/reporters come on board to widen the coverage. (1.3.1.4)



4 Focus on Social Action

4.1 Past achievements and current projects

4.1.1. CT groups across the county are engaged in numerous social action projects including, for example, foodbanks, homelessness relief through St Petroc's, street pastors, the hospice movement, credit unions, debt advice, memory cafes, befriending, refugee support and so on. Often these are managed locally with little inter-area engagement.

4.1.2. *CTC Dementia Action Group*

At county level, the CTC Dementia Action Group was launched in 2015 under the leadership of Christine Todd and Bren Stuart White, with visits to interested church groups throughout Cornwall. Its purpose is to assist the church community, ensuring that the church leaders/church council are aware of the issues that living with dementia may entail and of their responsibilities to promote a healthy philosophy of inclusion and acceptance throughout the whole worshipping community.

4.1.3. *Christian Aid*

The local Christian Aid SW representative is a co-opted member of the CTC Executive. The post is currently held Katrina Musgrave, who will be based in Cornwall. Many of our churches are involved in collections for Christian Aid Week each year and respond when communities elsewhere in our world are in need through famine, disasters or other catastrophies.

4.2. Future possibilities

4.2.1. *The need for social action projects*

Church-based social action projects are well-developed and CTC's role should be in co-ordination and support. We **recommend** CTC should focus discussion on the need to address the fundamental reasons why these services are needed and what can be done to render them less necessary. (1.3.2.1.)

4.2.2. *Alleviating loneliness: the Poppins project*

This project proposal was developed in 2018 as a follow-up to Transformation Cornwall's *Coffee with Donna* initiative which ran through 2017 at various existing and pop-up community cafes around the county. This revealed the importance of such facilities in helping to reduce loneliness, and the Poppins Project was devised with the dual purpose of publicising existing facilities and identifying where additional ones are needed, offering support in developing them. The proposal included funding for a part-time staff member and support for a multimedia information hub, and was submitted to the Government's Building Connections Fund. As this was greatly oversubscribed, the application was unsuccessful. We **recommend** developing a new proposal to help alleviate loneliness, in conjunction with Transformation Cornwall and utilising information from the mapping exercise proposed at 3.2.1, and seeking funding as necessary (1.3.2.2.)

4.2.3 *Fairtrade*

Many churches support and promote Fairtrade, but find difficulty in attracting volunteers. We **recommend** CTC identifies and invites all Christian Fairtrade enterprises in Cornwall to share information and offer practical support to each other so that awareness of trade justice is promoted and delivered more effectively (1.3.2.3.)

5 Focus on Environmental Concerns

5.1. Past achievements and current projects

5.1.1 Environmental concern is the most recent action area for CTC and has so far focussed on support for county and national programs, including Climate Vision's *10 Pledges* campaign promoted through Luci Isaacson, Truro Diocesan Environment Officer, and Sky's Ocean Rescue Campaign.

5.2. Future possibilities

5.2.1 Cornwall Council declared a '**climate emergency**' on 22 Jan 2019 and is developing an engagement strategy which will bring together the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of all the interested parties in Cornwall including the churches. An action plan is due to be published in within six months. We **recommend** CTC takes an active part, with local councils, in encouraging take-up of the plan at local level. (1.3.3.1.)

5.2.2 Some churches have engaged in the '**Creation Time**' initiative in September each year. We **recommend** CTC encourages adoption of this framework to raise awareness of environmental concerns and local initiatives underway. (1.3.3.2.) While many of these are secular, the church is uniquely placed to support participation across communities.

5.2.3 **Church buildings** can showcase environmentally-friendly policies, green energy projects and so on, and there are many successful examples around the county. CTC can encourage and promote these (1.3.3.3.)

5.2.4 **Church land** offers many opportunities for practical conservation projects, environmental education and community gardens, to name just a few. We **recommend** CTC give more publicity to these, to inspire communities with what can be done and connect those with expertise and experience with those seeking advice (1.3.3.4.)

5.2.5 The growth in **public concern** about climate change, species loss and environmental degradation offers the Christian community a high-profile opportunity to express publicly why informed action should be a Christian priority. We **recommend** CTC provide resource packs for church groups and Christians involved in secular groups, focussing on creativity and hope, based on the cumulative effect of small steps and celebrating resultant change (1.3.3.5.)

6 Focus on Mission

6.1. Past achievements and current projects

6.1.1. *LEP reviews*

An important role of CTC is to offer support to groups and congregations of Christians that have covenanted to join together in worship. The chart in Appendix 1 shows their progress made over recent years.

Rev Margaret Barnes and Rev Elizabeth Foot have completed the LEP Reviews for the period up to end of 2018 as required. Thanks must go to them both for their time and effort in keeping this important schedule up to date.

6.1.2. *RCS Tent ministry*

The Churches Together Royal Cornwall Show Tent has been successfully operating over a number of years through its own affiliated committee, receiving an annual grant from CTC. The *Eve of Show service* is well attended with the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Colonel Bolitho, the Chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District and the Bishop of Truro. The tent (which has vastly improved over the past five years) is perhaps the most visible feature of this ministry but its real value lies in the exemplary Chaplaincy work undertaken by some 20 plus Chaplains, administering to the general public, traders, farmers and general visitors.

6.1.3. *Thy Kingdom Come*

CTC has participated in the organisation of Beacon Events for Thy Kingdom Come initiative in 2017 and 2018 at Gwennap Pit, Truro Cathedral and Truro Methodist Church. 2019 sees Beacon events at St Martin's Church, Liskeard and Gwennap Pit; CTC has negotiated successful grant applications to cover the costs of these two Beacon Events.

6.1.4. *Educational Chaplaincy*

The long-standing CTC Education Group was renamed the CTC Educational Chaplaincy Group, to advise on and promote high standards of chaplaincy in Cornwall's schools and colleges. A chair for the new group is currently being sought, and will be a co-opted member of CTC Executive.

6.1.5. *Cornwall Faith Forum (Dor Kemmyn)*

CTC is represented on the Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) by John Keast. Established in 2008, it plans to create a centre at Penmount as a shared sacred space for individual faith communities to use for their own worship, for interfaith celebrations and for sharing stories, experiences and customs. The prayer space would be both for collective worship as well as open for individuals.

Individual church members sometimes find interfaith work challenging, and feel it is inappropriate for CTC to support such movements. Others find it of primary importance and central to CTC's work of reconciliation. It is important that we provide an ongoing safe forum where such conflicts can be productively explored and opposing views honoured. In this it can reflect the views of CTE and the wider ecumenical movement, and facilitate constructive discussion and support for minorities.

6.1.6. *Landevennec pilgrimage*

The first "Companions of St Guènolè" journeyed as Pilgrims to the Abbey of Landevennec in 1989. Building ecumenical links between Christians in Cornwall and the Abbey at Landevennec has always been the main aim, and in 2012 the "Companions of St Guènolè" was dissolved to allow the creation of a Planning Group under the aegis of CTC. In 2017 the very successful bi-annual pilgrimages became annual; the available 30 places are regularly oversubscribed.

6.1.8. *Epiphany House*

CTC supports the work of Epiphany House and its associated Spirituality Network, training and supporting spiritual directors in the county. This is an ancient ministry which is about taking time to meet with an experienced person to talk about one's spiritual journey and prayer, and one which is increasingly sought.

6.1.9 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

In the past two years CTC has organised daily services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, using CTBI's published materials, in Truro Cathedral and Truro Methodist Church. Although attendances have been small, these have been much appreciated by those present, and allow reflection on fundamental issues of ecumenism.

6.2. Future possibilities

6.2.1. *'Preach on the Beach'*

Cornwall's coast provides many opportunities for outdoor worship, engaging with visitors and residents alike. Beach labyrinths have proved very popular and offer unthreatening opportunities to discuss spiritual matters, and beach missions are carried out by various agencies, and 'songs of praise' sessions with male voice choirs have been popular in the past. Cornwall Worship currently organise praise and worship in iconic locations such as Land's End and the Minack Theater. We **recommend** that CTC encourages co-ordination and development of these initiatives, creating opportunities for young people assisting in the organising of mini festivals with food stalls and prayer tents, resourcing local mission and providing safe spaces for discussion and spiritual exploration for all ages (1.3.4.1.)

6.2.2 *Cornish Celtic Way*

The growing interest in pilgrimage has led to the establishment of a new long-distance route in Cornwall, linking the ancient Saints' Way and St Michael's Way, beginning at St German's and ending at St Michael's Mount.

We **recommend** that CTC develops an association with the Cornish Celtic Way, encouraging support by local CT groups through whose area the route passes and the use of church buildings for overnight accommodation, and raising awareness of other pilgrimage opportunities including that of Landevennec (1.3.4.2.)

6.2.3. *High Street mission*

The value of non-church high street locations for developing pastoral ministry is increasingly recognised, with multi-use venues such as the Huddle café in Falmouth (part of the Anglican Transforming Mission initiative), the Oasis Centre in St Columb Major (community run with local organisations, councils and churches), Penryn Treasures in Penryn (run in support of the Foodbank) and the SACREdplace bookshop in St Austell being examples where a listening ear can be provided in unthreatening circumstances with no agenda and no referral necessary. All differently managed and with different business models, they reveal a growing need: numbers using the ministry at SACREdplace have more than doubled in the past two years. Sadly the commercial pressures on bookshops have led to the decision to close SACREdplace in its present form in May 2019. We **recommend** that CTC encourages wider discussion of the value and difficulties of ministry in shop-front sites, co-ordinating existing efforts and documenting examples of good practice, and supporting new initiatives. (1.3.4.3.)

6.2.4 *Christian publishing*

Access to Bibles and Christian literature has long been a central concern of overseas mission, but rather taken for granted in our own country. The closure of bookshops and libraries and growing secularisation mean that many find it hard to explore Christianity without making the commitment of attending church or an Alpha course, for example. Conversely, Christian publishing continues to grow and materials are readily available online, but the disappearance of curated, manageable collections for browsing means that new access points are needed to manage 'information overload'. These might include online guides, 'book box' services providing small, up-to-date collections in local centres, Christian author appearances/signings at events, themed evenings/displays in remaining libraries/bookshops, etc. CTC might appropriately take a lead in encouraging, co-ordinating and publicising such initiatives, and we **recommend** that it engage immediately with SACREdtrust to endeavour to ensure that expertise in the St Austell centre is not lost but harnessed in new ventures (1.3.4.4.)

6.2.5. *Raising international awareness – refugees, persecution, modern slavery*

Many churches and CT groups partner with secular groups in supporting refugees, the persecuted, those caught up in modern slavery etc., and providing prayer groups and prayers in church services. The growing size of these problems can be demoralising and many are left feeling 'what can I do'. Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together is currently developing a set of resources to raise awareness of the issues around the persecution of Christians worldwide for churches to use as they wish in normal services, prayer groups etc. A group of Christians, brought together by CTIPA meet on the 1st Monday of each month to write cards and verses to persecuted Christians elsewhere in our world, in connection with "Open Doors". Dr Russell Blacker is keen to extend such initiatives across Cornwall and we **recommend** that CTC consider how initiatives by local CT groups to raise congregational awareness of issues relating to the treatment of refugees, persecution of Christians, modern slavery and other international concerns can be extended county-wide (1.3.4.5.)

7 Delivering Change

7.1 Restructuring CTC Executive support

To ensure CTC can continue on a sustainable basis following the retirement of David Smith, we **recommend** some structural changes as follows:

- 7.1.1 Focus on four topic areas: Communication, Social Action, Environmental Concern, and Mission.
- 7.1.2 Create project groups for each topic, involving members from local CT groups, to keep CTC abreast of developments and aspirations across the county. Each group should be represented on CTC Executive.
- 7.1.3 Appoint a Missioner (or Co-ordinator) to manage those tasks formally required of CTC by CTE (including LEP reviews), service CTC meetings, and oversee the project groups.
- 7.1.4 Consider supporting this post with a minute secretary.
- 7.1.5 Group other CTC activities as one of three types:
 - *Managed*: directly run by CTC and responsible to CTC Executive [e.g. RCS Tent Ministry, Dementia Group, Education Group, WPCU services, Landevennec Pilgrimages, CTC website, CTC Newsletter, CTC insurance scheme]
 - *Supported*: separately managed but with CTC contribution (financial or in-kind) and representation [e.g. Cornwall Faith Forum, Epiphany House, Thy Kingdom Come, Educational Chaplaincy, Climate Vision].
 - *Associated*: distinct organisations which CTC works with but is not represented on [e.g. Christian Aid, Cornish Celtic Way]
- 7.1.6. Ensure each activity is represented on the appropriate Project Group and reports through it to CTC Executive. New initiatives, problems, requests for support, resource sharing etc should be discussed in the group which would make recommendations to CTC Exec, based on their experience of needs and resources across the county.
- 7.1.7. In responding to Project Group requests, CTC Executive should prioritise ‘managed’ activities, while ensuring appropriate contributions and representation for ‘supported’ activities.
- 7.1.8. Project Groups should arrange their own secretarial support, internal structure, frequency and location of meetings etc. The Missioner should be available for advice but not involved in the day-to-day running.

7.2 Implementation

CTC Executive is invited to explore these proposals further through the appointment of a ‘task and finish’ group of perhaps 6 members, to be formed following the AGM on 10 April 2019, considering budgetary implications and reporting to the Executive meeting on 10 July 2019 with final recommendations for approval at that meeting and subsequent implementation.

8 Conclusion

The ecumenical movement in Cornwall has achieved much and has aspirations to undertake a great deal more. Needs are great and resources finite. We are conscious of the need not to overstretch the many volunteers already involved, or to duplicate or obstruct existing work. As a central body for Cornwall, CTC should aim to provide from the centre what is difficult to provide locally, and we see its role primarily in information, coordinating, campaigning, encouraging, and – firstly! – praying. We have been much encouraged by the vision and enthusiasm we have encountered in compiling this short report and commend it to the CTC Executive with great hopes for the future!

Donna Birrell – Roger Mills – Kathy Pope – David Smith
April 2019

Appendix 1 Useful links

CTC Constitution <https://www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk/docstore/13.pdf>

Declaration of Intent <https://www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk/about/declaration-of-intent/>

CTC Coordinator job description as advertised in 2018:

Churches Together Cornwall Coordinator This is a voluntary position with expenses.

We are seeking an CTC Coordinator to fulfill the following key roles:

With a personal passion for unity within the county and the ability to relate well with leaders across the denominations and streams of Christian of faith

- To meet and relate with clergy and church leaders
- To liaise with Churches Together groups and other unity movements across Cornwall
- To give (or arrange for) administrative support and assist in preparing and sharing CTC information and publicity for CTC projects and initiatives
 - To oversee insurance for CTC events
 - To maintain past records of LEP reviews and visits, as well as to prompt future visits when they are due
 - To maintain the CTC database
- To support and encourage local CTC activities and projects as well as regular reviews and visits
- To resource the county by connecting appropriate groups with initiatives and creating awareness of existing projects
- To help support fresh initiatives for Christian Mission with an ecumenical agenda
- To act as the contact for Churches Together Executive within the county
- To support and facilitate the work of the team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers
- To establish and oversee communication in email circulation with various denominations and unity movements
- To oversee an updated County CTC website to share information, updates, and "Good News Stories" from across the county
- To liaise with special events as and when necessary to bring greater unity
- To act as a gift and service to the wider church in communication, practical support, and friendship

If you wish to apply please send a C.V. to The Diocesan Ecumenical Officer at guenolesenara@hotmail.co.uk by May 12th 2018

Appendix 2 Local Ecumenical Partnerships

| TYPES of Local Ecumenical Partnerships | |
|---|---|
| single congregation | 1 |
| congregations in Covenant | 2 |
| A Shared Building Partnership | 3 |
| A Chaplaincy Partnership | 4 |
| A Mission Partnership | 5 |
| An Education Partnership | 6 |

| DEOs | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Baptist | Rev Matt Noble | MN |
| Anglican | Rev Elizabeth Foot | EF |
| Greek Orthodox | (TBA) | |
| Methodist | Rev Margaret Barnes | MB |
| Quaker | Mrs Lesley Chandler | LC |
| Roman Catholic | Rev Andrew Shute | AS |
| Russian Orthodox | Rev Deacon Peter Willis | PW |
| Salvation Army | Captain Graham Lumm | GL |
| URC | (TBA) | |
| County Missioner | David H Smith | DHS |

| <i>AS AT 31 MARCH 2019</i> | TYPE | START DATE | LAST REVIEW | NEXT REVIEW | MINISTERS INVOLVED | TEAM |
|--|------|------------|-------------------|-------------|--|----------------|
| TREGADILLETT LEP (CofE - Methodist) | 1&3 | 1986 | 5-Oct-2016 | 2021 | Malcolm Jones (M) Alison Hardy (CofE) | EF - MB |
| ROCHE (C of E - Methodist) | 2 | 2003 | 20-Oct-2016 | 2021 | Paul Parker (M) Canon Paul Arthur (CofE) | EF - MB |
| WALL & GWINEAR (CofE - Methodist) | 1&2 | 2007 | 12-Jan-2017 | 2022 | Brian Thornton (M) Sharon Clifton (CofE) | EF - MB |
| LOOE (URC- Methodist) | 1&3 | 1989 | 12-Jan-2017 | 2017 | Chloe Smith (M) | MB |
| MEVAGISSEY (URC - Methodist) | 1&3 | 1989 | 22-Jun-2012 | 2017 | David Hart (M) David Flynn | MB |
| GRAMPOUND ROAD (CofE - Methodist) revived | 2 | 1992 | 12-May-2012 | 2018 | Rev Joachim Foot (CofE) Rev Mark Dunn Wilson (M) | MB - EF |
| DOBWALLS UNITED CHURCH (CofE - Methodist) | 1&3 | | 13/12/2018 | 2023 | Mark Pengelly (M) Steve Morgan (CofE) | MB - EF |
| PORTSCATHO (URC - Methodist) | 1&3 | 1988 | 23-Feb-16 | 2023 | Rev Mark Dunn-Wilson (M) | |
| PORTLOE (CofE - Methodist) | 1&3 | 1992 | under review 2017 | 2023 | Rev M Dunn-Wilson (M) Philip Greenhaigh (CofE) | |
| UPTON CROSS/RILLA MILL/LINKINHORNE | 1&3 | 2015 | under review 2017 | | Tony Stephens (CofE) | MB - EF |
| WORK IN PROGRESS | | | | | | |
| Isles of Scilly | | | | 2022 | Canon Perran Gay (CofE) | |
| Pencoys/Fourlanes | 1&3 | | | | Carol Holmes (M) | |
| Pensilva | 3 | | | 2020 | Becca Belle (M) | |
| Newquay / St Columb | | | | | Jem Thorold (CofE) | |
| Lewannick | | | | | Heather West (CofE) | |
| St Eve | | | | | Becca Belle (M) | |
| Perranaworthal | | | | | Fr Simon Bone (CofE) | MB - EF |